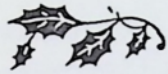
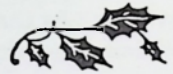


MAKING TRACKS



BIG BUTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



WINTER 1996 ISSUE

A SENSE OF HISTORY IS ALL AROUND US

THE FALLS:

In Butte Falls, we don't keep our heritage locked behind glass. Instead, it is all around us. Just a stone's throw from town is the beautiful resounding falls which served as an inspiration for the naming of Butte Falls, as well as a swimming hole for the town's residents. This historical and aesthetic landmark remains one of the town's "best kept" secrets.

COBLEIGH BRIDGE:

Some call it "The Singing Bridge", others know it simply as the steel bridge on Cobleigh Road. This landmark bridge has been designated on "The National Register" because of its unique and rare steel-girder design. Local residents worked long and hard to save the bridge from being replaced with a cement overpass. It was through the dedication, love, and passion of residents on Cobleigh Road that this bridge was kept from being removed. Unlike the Roseman Covered Bridge, in the 1992 best-selling novel, The Bridges of Madison County, it's not likely that the Cobleigh Bridge is going to turn Butte Falls into a tourist attraction such as Winterset, Iowa. However, it certainly has a "romantic" appeal to the caring neighbors on Cobleigh Road.

THE TOWN CEMETERY:

In little towns like Butte Falls, with all its problems big and small, life comes and goes. In a way, the Old Town Cemetery stands as a lasting monument of families and friends who have come and gone. The granite headstones bear some of the same names as today's town residents. A brief visit to the cemetery is like taking a step back in history. Prior to certain holidays, work parties of school children can be seen with adult supervisors tending to the grave sites and surrounding grounds. This year, thanks to the thoughtfulness and generosity of a gentleman named Jim Hutchins, flowers were placed by the children on all of the graves. The cemetery saw its first resident in 1868, making it one of the oldest historical landmarks in Butte Falls.

THE TOWN SQUARE & PARK:

The image of Butte Falls as an early logging town is still visible in the Town Square and surrounding residential areas. Many of the original houses and buildings were constructed of milled lumber from the local forest. The "heart" of town is the city park. The park is the site of many community and civic gatherings. Each year nearly the entire town gathers in the park for the 4th of July Celebration. The newest additions to the Town Square are the library, museum, and motel. Each were designed to blend in with the original buildings still in existence.

TOWN MASTER PLAN:

After our timber industry collapsed, we found that if we took care of our cultural history and natural resources, we might have a good chance of saving our town. Butte Falls isn't "touristy" town. And rather than try to become something new, we ended up with a plan to preserve our town with its rich logging and railroad history. The Master Plan will revitalize the Town of Butte Falls and provide long-range unity for the care and repair of the town's infrastructure. From the standpoint of the Big Butte Historical Society, our history and sense of history surrounds us. It is hopeful that the sum will be greater than the parts. As the communities around us grow and change, perhaps Butte Falls will remain a place where: "Today looks like yesterday."

— J. Hailicka/Chairman

DISCOVER
A TREASURE

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

THAT WAS THEN . . . THIS IS NOW

Stories still circulate about the early logging days in Butte Falls when "timber was king". Some call them the "good old days". With a plentiful supply of timber and a strong labor force, our history as a logging town began as early as 1906. A short years later, the town was incorporated. Back then, it seemed that timber would last forever.

The early inhabitants looked to the future with optimism. As the years rolled along, the ebb and tide of the logging industry seemed inevitable. As early as 1918, gone was the reserve of "accessible" timber and with it went the mill.

The troubles that plagued Butte Falls were widespread throughout the country. A Depression in the lumber industry was the result. With the onslaught of World War I and prior to the Great Depression, railroad logging was used to transport timber to the lumber mills.

This short-lived heyday came to an end with the crash of the stock market in 1929. The demand for timber simply disappeared. Stacks of unwanted lumber stockpiled for the next two years. Mills cut back on production. The timber labor force was reduced considerably. Eventually Owen-Oregon liquidated their assets and by 1935 Medford Corporation took over.

Now nearly sixty years later, we see the sale of Medite (formerly Medco Corporation). A new coalition of timber companies step into the picture. In what appears to be a lottery-type drawing, the new owners will "draw" for lands in Butte Falls. With new forest management practices in place, it appears we are about to experience a new chapter in Butte Falls history.

Who is the author of this new chapter? All of us are, all of us who know or believe without our collective help and imagination, the town would not be what it is today. Someday our children will call the "good old days" our generation.

BBHS MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Historical Society meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the library. We encourage you to attend, to express your opinions regarding the function, projects and fundraisers of the organization.

Support provided in part by the Jackson County Historical Fund

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. To keep our faces toward change and behave like free spirits in the presence of fate is strength undefeatable.

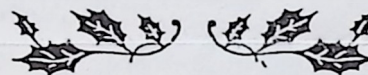
- - - Helen Keller

REMEMBERING THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN YOUR WILL

A will is a document that tells others how you wish to divide your assets - - - cash, property, and personal possessions that we leave behind when we die. Without a valid will, these important decisions are left up to the courts and may not correspond with your wishes.

With a will, your estate is divided among the people and organizations you choose and care about. Remembering the Big Butte Historical Society is a very thoughtful choice that leaves a legacy of history for your children and your children's children. It ensures the continuation of the fine work which has begun in our community to preserve our past for future generations to enjoy.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Big Butte Historical Society's Endowment Fund, call Cory Hamann (president) at (541) 865-3310.



Joy to the World

FULFILLMENT

To fulfill the dreams of one's youth; that is the best that can happen to any man. No worldly success can take the place of that.

- - - Willa Cather

BOARD MEMBERS

Cory Hamann (President)
Bev Carrillo

Dan Murphy
Joyce Hallicka, Chairman

THE BILL EDMONDSON MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND CABOOSE HOURS

FRIDAY 1-4 P.M., SATURDAY 10 - 4 P.M. AND SUNDAY 1-4 P.M.

HOSTESS: KAETE THOMPSON 865-3333
GLORIA KARCHES 865-3332
NELLIE RAGSDALE 865-3332

In Appreciation

To all the wonderful volunteers who donated time, money, labor, and historical items for the new museum, we thank you dearly. It is wonderful to know we have such capable and dedicated people working on behalf of keeping our Butte Falls history alive. It is because of you, and people like you, that we have so much to be thankful for.

If you haven't had a chance to visit the "Bill Edmondson Memorial Museum" in the old Ernest W. Smith house, the holidays are a good time to stop by and say "hello". Many first time visitors are surprised by the place. It is as if they have stepped back in time, when neighbors stopped in and visited neighbors, and had more fun than they imagined. There are many reminders of Ernest W. Smith & Lucy's presence and contributions to the town of Butte Falls. "If it seems like time is passing too fast, take a step back into the past," and visit the Depot/Caboose and the new "Bill Edmondson Memorial Museum" in the nicely refurbished Ernest W. Smith House on Pine Street.

With sincere gratitude and appreciation to all,

Joyce Hailicka
Chairperson
BBHS



To become a member of the Big Butte Historical Society, simply send a check for \$5.00 annual membership fee, to P. O. Box 379, Butte Falls, OR 97522. You will be on our mailing list and will receive a quarterly newsletter, such as this. You may want to send a gift membership to a friend or relative. Please include your name and the name and address of the person you are sending it to.



MEMBERSHIP FORM - \$5.00 per household

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Send to:

BIG BUTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 379
Butte Falls, OR 97522

PLEASE JOIN US!

MAIL TO:

Big Butte Historical Society
P. O. Box 379, Butte Falls, OR 97522

Now that you heard about BBHS, why not get to know us even better by becoming a volunteer!
We'll look forward to having you join us!

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Here's how I can be of help:

_____ I'd like to _____

_____ Tell me more about being a board member.

_____ I could be a guest speaker. My topic: _____

_____ I'd like to help with fundraising efforts.

_____ I do not have time to volunteer at this time but I would like to make a monetary contribution to this organization.



NEW MUSEUM FEATURED IN SOHS HERITAGE MAGAZINE

"Big Butte's Big Hearts Create Small Miracles" by Fred Flaxman is featured in the Fall edition of the Oregon Heritage Magazine. Copies are available at the Southern Oregon Historical Society at 106 N. Central Avenue in Medford.

NEW HOURS, NEW FACES

Visitors to the "Bill Edmondson Memorial Museum" will be met by one of our new hostesses, Nellie Ragsdale or Gloria Karches. New winter hours are:

Fri. 1:00 - 4:00
Sat. 10:00 - 4:00
Sun. 1:00 - 4:00

Our hostess at the "Caboose Museum" is Kaete Thompson. The visitor hours are the same at both museums. We also have museum exhibit space in "The Depot". Please let us know if you have historic items of interest which you would like to exhibit at the library. Call Joyce (865-3205) or Cory (865-3310). We'll be glad to help you set up your display. BBHS shall preserve, collect and exhibit items of historical interest and collaborate with others who wish to do the same.



*'It has been wisely said
that whatever many
may say about the
future, it is ours, not
only that it may
happen to us, but it
is in part made by us.'*



"WELCOME"
TO
BUTTE FALLS



One of the most pleasantly situated communities in the United States.

- * Historic charm
- * Family oriented events and attractions
- * Natural beauty
- * Annual 4th of July Celebration in the park
- * Boating, fishing and hiking
- * Family dining and lodging
- * Caboose Museum
- * 50's Vintage Museum
- * Nearby campgrounds
- * Town Square Charm
- * 50-mile loop tour
- * Proposed Scenic Railroad
- * Picturesque Mt. McLoughlin
- * Interpretative History Kiosk
- * Sunny days, clean water, pure air
- * Richly varied landscape
- * Quiet and relaxation
- * See the reason we were named the
"Friendliest Community"



SEASON'S GREETINGS